

ORKNEY 2013



YELLOW BARTSIA

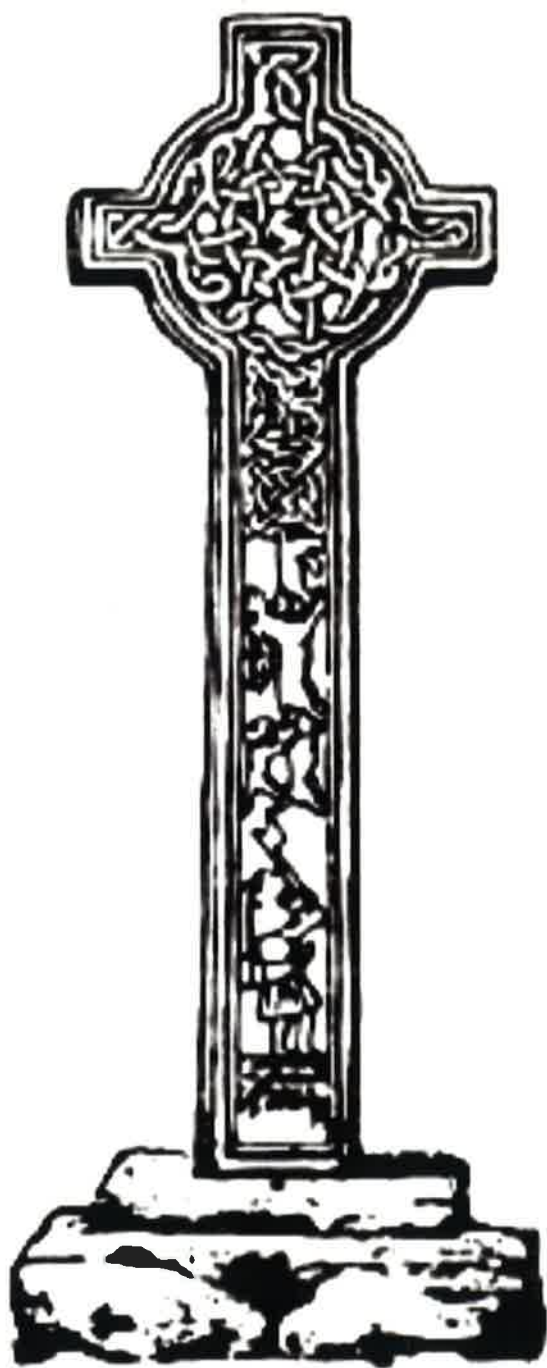


DUN MHUIRICH
(PT 2)



THE

KIST 86



KILMARTIN UPDATE (JUNE 2013)

BILL YOUNG

In Kist 84 Kilmartin Museum provided an article about our future development plans and we can now bring readers up to date on our progress. We have been successful in attracting funding from a number of sources to allow us to move into the next phase of our project and we are grateful to Highland and Island Enterprise, Scottish Government ERDF Leader Programme, Association of Independent Museums and Argyll and Bute Council for their contributions which bring our ambitions closer.

The first stage application for major funding will be to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2013 based on our plans to provide a quality Interpretation service of the heritage of our area. If successful, we will be invited to develop the project to the detailed stage and make application, probably some time in late 2014, early 2015 for a start in 2015/16.

The Heritage Lottery Fund will be looking for quality outcomes for heritage, people and communities in our application and it is important we address all three of these areas in detail. For heritage outcomes we will develop an 'Interpretation Plan' which will describe how we will 'tell the story' of Kilmartin Glen and the surrounding area, as well as wider Argyll across a number

of ages. This plan will require strong support from our 'audience' which includes academic, education, tourism and community contributions of Kilmartin Museum's



Concept picture for museum development

importance in heritage terms. We will demonstrate that we will be a service that is well managed, in better condition and has the correct interpretive and research approach.

For people outcomes the HLF investment is expected to show skills development, good education service in heritage and the ability to change attitudes and appreciation for heritage, as well as giving a good experience and encouraging people to get involved, as volunteers and supporters.

The community outcomes expected will refer to environmental impacts and our current environmental policies will be challenged to ensure they include and embrace future sustainability. The community outcomes should also engage more people in our immediate and wider community with heritage and have potential to boost the local economy.

Concept picture for museum development



The rigorous procurement process of inviting, interviewing and selecting an architecture team for the building element of the project is now complete.

The quality of submissions was extremely high and we are about to appoint a team to bring the building concept to a costed and designed stage for the HLF application in December.

Over the next months Kilmartin Museum will be launching a Community Awareness Programme to share our ambitions, design and plans and to ask our friends, communities and customers to show their support. This will help tremendously with our Heritage Lottery Fund application and will also help with raising the funds we require to match any grant offered.

Details of the architect team appointed for the project, the concept drawings and model for the building and information on our community awareness programme will appear on our website www.kilmartin.org over the summer on 2013.

DUN MHUIRICH (PART 2 OF 2)

RODDY REGAN

5. Discussion

The excavation and survey of Dun Mhuirich has revealed a complex, well preserved site. The site probably originates in the Iron Age or possibly the early historic period although little beyond the structural evidence was uncovered for this period. The archaeological deposits within and around the structures are also well preserved, which will not only allow understanding and interpretation of the structural sequence but, because

bone survives well, will also allow the examination of diet, animal husbandry and the surrounding environment and how this may have developed from the medieval to the late medieval period.



Corridor Surface

The excavation produced occupation evidence from the 12th to the 17th centuries, suggesting



Cruck Structure

a long and/or perhaps an intermittent occupational history reflected in what would appear to be complex structural sequence. The artefacts, the pottery in particular, has indicated several periods of occupation, or perhaps continued occupation in the medieval period after the 12th century. The presence of the pottery within what are no doubt domestic deposits probably indicates the site's use in the 12th century by a group or family of some status, given its rarity outside of monastic and lordly residences in Argyll. No building within the site has as yet has been firmly dated to this period of occupation but the presence of such structures can perhaps be presumed. The presence of what appears to be garderobe outside the upper enclosure entrance, a feature usually associated with castle structures, also perhaps

indicates a site of some import. As yet undated, the clay bonding of the walls of Structure 3, their well constructed nature and the presence of a scarcement that may have supported suspended floor, also points to a higher status building. The presence of pottery within an enclosed site with several associated structures suggests a habitation of some status that was probably associated with one of the notable families present in Knapdale from the medieval period.

Who then did occupy Dun Mhuirich? If the name is taken at face value then the site is most likely associated with the MacMhuirich family, hereditary bards of the Lords of the Isles. If the presence of 12th-16th century pottery within a well defended site does indeed indicate occupation of higher status then the site is probably linked to one of the prominent families present in Knapdale from the 12th century. Historical records from this period are of course limited although from later sources and family histories we can perhaps conclude who were the dominant families with territorial claims in the area, although who actually exercised control on the ground locally is more opaque. Even so while it can be demonstrated that the MacMhuirichs had associations with Kintyre there are as yet no known extant historical records linking them with Knapdale and it is possible the name may be the retention of a pre-document ownership. From the 12th century the proximity and control of the major stronghold of Castle Sween would have exerted a

powerful influence over who resided nearby. The history of the castle somewhat reflects the familial and dynastic struggles that affected much of Argyll in the medieval period. The MacSweens who constructed the castle in the 12th century had been replaced as the Lords of Knapdale by the Stewart Earls of Mentieth by the late 13th century. They used local Campbell magnates as keepers or constables of the castle. Control of the castle would appear to have remained with the Mentieth family until Robert Stewart, as King Robert II, granted the keepership to Alexander MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, who held the castle until the Lordships forfeiture in 1475. Thereafter the castle was granted to successive Earls of Argyll. Under the Earls of Argyll the keepership of Castle Sween was held by the Campbells of Auchinbreck, who undertook the hereditary roll as their military commanders.

Closely associated with Castle Sween in the period of the Lordship were the MacNeils (of Taynish and Gigha). It is postulated here that it is this family who have an association with the site as it is unclear where the Taynish branch of the family resided prior to the construction of Taynish House in the late 17th century. The earliest origins of MacNeils of Taynish are somewhat obscure as no traditional pedigree survives, but they are likely to have descended from the same family branch as the MacNeils of Barra. The family claimed the same line of descent as other prominent Cowal and Knapdale families

such as the MacSweens, Lamonts and Gilchrists, their descent coming from Neil (from whom they take their name) son Muirchaidh who was a grandson of Suibhne (Sween, the builder of Castle Sween). It has not gone without notice that the name Muirchaidh (who was thought to be active in the earlier half of the 13th century (d. 1267) is not to dissimilar to 'Mhuirich' and it possible the later name associated with the site is a later corruption. Whether this or their claimed lineage for the MacNeils is true or not, it is likely that the MacNeils did have a foothold in Knapdale by the early 15th century when in 1449 *'Alexander Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles granted in heritage to Torquel McNeill constable of castle Syffyn constabulary of that castle, certain lands in Gyga and following lands in Knapdale, 4 marklands of Dannay (Danna), a markland of Bairbrek (Barbreak), a markland of Bairbeth (Barbae), a markland of Bairbethan, 2 merklands of Bairnaphala (Arinafad?), and Duarby, half pennyland Duffoyng and a markland of Tuirynis (Taynish) with the office of Toshachdeora of the lands of Knapdale'*. In the medieval Gaelic world a constablenesship of a castle was given to a local lord, often the head of a lineage, by an overlord and accepted as an act of fealty by him. Thereafter his sons assumed the hereditary role of constables of the castle. Neil MacNeil (of Gigha) was named as constable of Castle Sween in a charter of 1455, and his brother Hector (of Taynish) named as constable in a witness list of 1472. Tradition has it that Hector's daughter Erca married Alexander MacMillan (from another Knapdale family) who assumed the role of

constable. As such for much of the 15th century the MacNeils were close adherents to the Lords of the Isles. After the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles Colin, Earl of Argyll was given custody of the castle in 1481. The MacNeils of Taynish, seeing perhaps which way the political wind was blowing, became vassals of the Earl of Argyll much to the displeasure of those still loyal to the MacDonald cause. The grandson Hector MacNeill (constable of Castle Sween in 1472), Neill McNeill McAychin (Neill son of Neill son of Hector) is stated as being 'of Dunworich' in a disposition of Archibald Earl of Argyll dating to 1553. The importance of this name is that the site is called 'Dunourich' on General Roys map of c1750 which if taken at face value places the MacNeils as occupying the site in the late medieval period.

In 1564 Torquil, Neills son, received from Archibald Earl of Argyll *'a markland of Drumagall (Drimagall), a markland of Barbreck (Barbreak) with its islands, a merkland of Tawnacht, a markland of Barnafalg (Barnashaig), and its island, a markland of Scottenishe (Scotnish) with island Vaude, a markland of Ovir Scotteniche, a markland Avenaraidebeg (Arinafad Beg), 2 marklands of Tynische (Taynish), with their islands, a markland of Bairaoraniode (Barrahomid), a markland of Barbay (Barbae), a markland in Kilmorie (Kilmory), a markland in Surbiskle (Turbiskle), 2 marklands of Ardbeg, a markland of Barbay in Downing, together with the old extent of 16 marklands, in the lordship of Knapdale and sheriffdom of tarbert and resigned by Neill Makneil'*

By the 17th century the family is well established in Knapdale holding lands from Taynish and Barra-hormaid to Scotnish as well as holding lands in Gallachaille and Arichonan. The family remained closely allied to the Campbells, as Hector McNeil was the Justice of the Peace for Argyll in 1629 and is mentioned in a sasine of 1631

The family were also leading members of the church with Hector MacNeil becoming an elder of the Presbytery and in 1640 attended the Provincial Assembly of Argyll. In 1643 Hector's daughter Mary was married to Niall Campbell (later laird of Duntroon). As covenanting allies of the Campbells, the MacNeil lands in Knapdale were seen as legitimate targets by the royalist and MacDonald partisan Alistair MacColla who raided the area in 1647, burning nearby Castle Sween in the process. Attributed to MacColla is the saying that he would not leave *'a bull to bellow, a Campbell to hollow or a MacNeil to lead in all of Knapdale'* which aptly underlines the particularly vicious nature of this inter clan conflict. A coin recovered from the site (1642-50) dates to this civil war period and it is entirely possible that during this time the site was occupied, either by MacColla's men or locals seeking refuge in what was probably a still an easily defensible site. It may be then that the site is connected to the fortunes of this Knapdale family and if this possible connection can be more firmly established then it may be the coin is evidence of the last use of the site as a defensive structure

or place of refuge before the MacNeils move to the nearby Taynish peninsula and the site is turned over to agricultural use. Any future work on this important site will afford a unique opportunity to understand their development and use in medieval Argyll and its cultural resonance with other sites in western Scotland, the Hebrides and Northern Ireland.

6. The Excavation Continues

We have just finished the second excavation at Dun Mhuirich. This year we were assisted by over 20 volunteers and pupils from Tayvallich Primary School (as part of their All Our Stories project) and History students from Lochgilphead High School as well as the local Great Auks group. The site has again thrown up exciting finds and has posed as many questions as those that were answered from last year. We excavated the northern half of Structure 1, which showed us more clearly that this building had undergone many alterations and had been extensively rebuilt at some time. Pottery recovered from the associated floors will help to date these modifications and we await their analysis.

We also excavated the 'corridor' lying between Structures 1 and 2 and this revealed a rather lovely cobbled surface with a drain running down one side. The drain itself appeared to be covered by a flag surface at its northern end and the pottery and glass that had found its way into

the drain suggested the last occupation of the structures probably date to the mid 17th century.

Another trench in the upper enclosure, lying to the south of Structure 1, revealed a third building (Structure 5) that had occupied this part of the enclosure. Three cruck slots were located along the lengths of its upstanding walls, which suggest a rectangular structure measuring 5.80m by 3.80m internally. This building appeared to predate Structures 1 and 2 as the northern wall of Structure 5 appears to have been demolished prior to their construction. The south east corner of the building however continued to be utilised, perhaps used as a small storehouse. Pottery again was recovered from the early floors of this building and while medieval we await more precise dating.

A trench was also opened up against a robbed out section of the wall of the lower enclosure. This revealed that the upper wall had been rebuilt at least twice, these with associated floors and middens. Below these rebuilds was quite a complicated sequence of floors/surfaces, middens, hearths and dumps, these all sealing what may be the footings of the original enclosure wall. Post holes within some of the surfaces suggest the presence of a wooden structure in this part of the site. The trench produced quite a lot of animal bone, bone tools, pottery and from one of the lowest deposits what may be an Iron age or even early medieval knife.

Outside the enclosure we also explored the northern end of Structure 3 and frustratingly, despite confirming the size and shape of the building, neither the associated internal floors or the external deposits produced any readily datable artefacts.

The younger participants of the team explored what would appear to be an extensive midden that had formed at the base of the cliff directly below the lower enclosure walls, where inhabitants of the settlement may have thrown their rubbish. The midden came to light by chance, where moles, had thrown up a number of animal bones and shells, these within a very dark soil. Closer inspection of the mole-hills also led to the discovery of what is probably a canal coal bangle, probably dating to the Iron Age or early historic period. The schools and the Auks then explored this area and their efforts produced lots of animal bones, mainly food waste, along with fragments of clay tobacco pipe, indicating the midden most likely dates to the 17th century. Other recovered finds however indicate earlier activity on the site including fragments of medieval pottery and a number of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints. All the numerous finds will now have to be cleaned, catalogued and analysed and will add another layer to the unfolding story of the people who lived at Dun Mhuirich.

YELLOW BARTSIA (AN ELUSIVE PLANT IN MID ARGYLL)

DAVE & PAT BATTY

In 2012 we were walking on Ormsary Estate by some farm buildings with grass and disturbed ground when we noticed a lot of yellow flowers in the grass. It was a plant I had not seen before, but luckily Pat had seen it elsewhere and named it as Yellow Bartsia, *Parentucellia*

viscosa. A quick check in the book confirmed it. It is always exciting to see a new plant.



Yellow Bartsia

We looked around the area and saw a lot more flowers, both near the buildings and through a gateway on a track to a nearby field. Further along the track we found outlier colonies in disturbed ground by the forestry track.

Yellow *Bartsia* is a tall, erect, annual, up to twenty inches tall, with a lot of yellow flowers at the top of the stem. It is usually found in damp grassy places and is semi-parasitic on the roots of other plants. It flowers from June to October but we saw it in mid-August. There are very few sites for it in Scotland. Its distribution is concentrated in southwest England and the south coast. One of its few Scottish sites is at Killeen in Kintyre. Thus it is quite a rare plant. Amazingly later in the year we learned of another site, a silage field full of the flowers at Claonaig.

As the plant is an annual the question is whether the plant has been at Ormsary for years or did some disturbance produce the conditions for seed in the ground to germinate. Is continued disturbance required to keep it growing and flowering each year? As an annual and with the number of plants and flowers seen at the sites a large amount of seed will be produced in a good year to form a large seed bank in the soil which is likely to persist for many years. The other question is whether it is elsewhere in Mid Argyll and Kintyre and has just been overlooked.

There is the old site in Kintyre and two newer ones have been found there since 2000 and now there are these two sites from 2012. Are these new sites or is the increase in number of plants due to better recording, different management or climate change?

The thing to do is to look out for large yellow flowering plants (somewhat like Yellow Rattle) in (damp) grassland this August; we certainly will.

THE LITTLE & LARGE ORCHIDS IN MID ARGYLL

DAVE & PAT BATTY

Walking along a forestry road by Daill Loch in Knapdale we were plant recording for the new plant atlas when I suddenly saw a new orchid in the verge. It was one we had never seen before. It was almost three feet high and had a large spike of pinkish/purple coloured flowers.



Broad Leaved Helleborine

Although so big, it was surprisingly easy to miss if just walking along the track. After some head scratching and a quick check of the book we found it was the Broad-leaved Helleborine, *Epipactis helleborine*. The plant was at its best and the flowers at the bottom of the

spike were fully opened with the ones at the top still in bud. We then had a look round the immediate area to see if there were other plants but found none. The side of the track had been recently cleared and was starting to re-vegetate. It was in this disturbed area that the orchid was growing. We wondered if this disturbance had triggered its growth.

The plant is not at all common in Argyll. There is an old record from Torrisdale in Kintyre and one from Appin. However its distribution is intriguing for it is very common round Glasgow and is found in a wide range of situations. It may be commoner in the Glasgow area than anywhere else in Britain. It is found in a variety of habitats; dense woodland, shaded road verges, gardens railway embankments, pit bings and limestone outcrops. We found the plant in August 2011 and returned eagerly in 2012 to see if it was present and had flowered again. However despite an extensive search we found no sign of the plant, neither flowers or leaves. This does not mean it has disappeared but it may be a few years before we see it again. We'll be out in 2013 to check again.

So in 2011 we saw probably the largest orchid species in Argyll but in 2012 we found the smallest species. Again we were walking along an estate track, this time at Ormsary, and looking in the roadside ditches for the pale butterwort when we found the bog orchid, *Hammarbya paludosa*. This diminutive and inconspicuous plant is

very easily overlooked. It has greenish-white flowers and is only up to four inches high. It has two to three small leaves which are usually fringed with tiny bulbils. These bulbils detach to form new plants but it also spreads by seed. In the ditch it was hidden by other plants. Populations are unpredictable from year to year. We have only seen it at one other place in Mid Argyll on Ellary Estate. It is rare elsewhere in the rest of Argyll, probably due to the difficulty of finding it.

A note was made of its location and we will visit the site to see if it persists. It must have colonised the ditch from the surrounding area but it would be virtually impossible to find other colonies in the large extent of moorland and bog. I suspect that most records are by accident.

So it only goes to show that forest and hill tracks are worth a look for unusual plants. The ditches are good places to find the pale butterwort, *Pinguicula lusitanica*.

Allan, B. & Woods, P. (1993) Wild Orchids of Scotland HMSO

ORKNEY 2013

REBECCA PINE

Returning to the scene of our delightful Island holiday of 2005 (was it really that long ago?) there remained still so many places – so many Islands – to visit, that we all set off in justifiably high spirits and a day early to be sure of catching the ferry from Scrabster. Not without a little trepidation too, as that ferry had been the subject of prolonged repairs in the weeks before our trip. A journey not without incident: Douglas was convinced he had left his camera (full of pictures from his recent trip to Brazil) in the café in Fort William and on arrival at Orkney had all the telephone lines buzzing to try to trace it. It did turn up eventually – on a peg in the hall of Barfad Farm!

There were other mishaps on the way to the chalets. Having lost contact with the other cars around the back streets of Stromness Jean and I discovered we had also lost the name of the chalets (!) and ended up miles off course in Kirkwall where we threw ourselves on the mercy of the Information Office to trace where we should be. The young man behind the counter was extremely courteous and helpful and a credit to his office – and we did at last get there. Mishaps were still the order of the day however, as having settled in and driven back in the evening to the fine Hamnavoe restaurant and completed our meal Jean, as the last one out, decided to leave by the emergency exit

and disappeared into the back streets of Stromness where, at some length, we found her again!

Our first trip was to the Tomb of the Eagles at the tip of South Ronaldsay. Here there was a first class interpretation presentation before an exhilarating walk along the cliffs to the burnt mound and the Stone Age burial cairn, entered on hands and knees or on a flat trolley, about as controllable as the average supermarket variety! The tomb is a well maintained and worthwhile "private" venture.

Over the next two days we divided into two groups to take turn about on two prearranged trips. This was necessary as our first trip was by 8-seater plane to North Ronaldsay, while the other party took a minibus tour of the island of Rousay. Our trip included a visit to the highest land-based lighthouse in Scotland - 176 spiral steps and 2 metal ladders to the light - where we were entertained to a history of that light and the nearby 18th C. Beacon currently being restored. We were also given a tour of the local mill which processes wool from the unique local sheep, before walking the length of the island back to our plane. Sadly the second group missed this trip due to a North Sea haar next morning.

Happily both groups managed the tour by Paddy's Bus of the island of Rousay, a circumnavigation which took in plenty of interesting bird and wildlife, much recent

history, a 'concrete art' installation by Ian Hamilton Finlay and, without doubt, the archaeological highlight of the holiday. This was the settlement of Mid Howe which is centred on a large chambered cairn enclosed in a weather-proof building, in which it is possible to examine the tombs from a variety of structured walkways. To the west the Broch of Mid Howe, directly on the coast, is a fine example of a once flourishing Iron Age settlement, while to the east are remains of several more recent structures. Blessed with bright sunshine we were able to thoroughly enjoy this magnificent site.

On other days collectively or randomly we visited some of the more well known places on mainland Orkney - Maes Howe, the Ring of Brodgar, the Broch of Gurness etc - and found other interesting features including the Orkneyinga Saga Centre and the Fossil Museum. The one area which we were unable to visit was the site currently under investigation on the Ness of Tenston, believed to be a whole village surrounding an ancient Temple. This was completely under wraps and not due to be uncovered again until July (for the 'Tourist Season'!) However on the 5th of June by chance we found ourselves on the headland above Marwick Bay at the Kitchener Memorial, on the very day that 97 years previously HMS Hampshire had been sunk there by German mines, with a loss of some 600 lives, including that of Kitchener himself, setting out on some delicate WWI mission to Russia.

A long standing ambition of mine had been to fly the world's shortest scheduled flight between the islands of Papa Westray and Westray, timetabled at 2 minutes! Jean and I managed this, with VIP treatment all the way from Kirkwall; and we have the certificates to prove it! Someone asked how many islands we had now visited on our annual NHASMA holidays: I can report that with these latest additions the figure stands at 45!

After such a splendid week, as is our usual practise on the last evening in the chalets, we unwound over a home cooked dinner and a glass or two of the appropriate tippie and exchanged stories of our week-gone-by, which I summarized for them in the form of... "An Antiquarian's Love Song"

“An Antiquarian’s Love Song”

Miz Mary! Miz Morag! And Miz Moira Young!
(a pseudonym surely, when bankers among!?)
We headed for Thurso the evening before
to be sure of the ferry for Orkney once more.

Fort William, Inverness, Dingwall and Wick –
We hit them or missed them or passed them as quick
as the speed of the car or the traffic allowed
with a style and technique would make Stirling Moss
proud.

So Mary; so Morag; and so Moisie D.,
we were never so glad the three M’ses to see;
and Scrabster to Stromness and Kirkwall passed by
in the lecherous twinkling of anyone’s eye.

And *Kirkwall*? I hear you repeat: and to *where*?
That’s miles off the Tom-Tom! Whoever went there?
Some two of the party forgot the address –
As Stan said to Olly “Well that’s a fine mess!”

But mobiles are marvellous tools of the Trade
when young Information Men come to your aid!
You wouldn’t think lightning could strike the same pair
again and so quickly. Well ladies, beware!

Emergency exits can come at a cost;
if you use them too lightly you're bound to get lost!
But the streets of Stromness are less wicked than most
when you wander about them from pillar to post.

Next day to the Tomb of the Eagles we're bound
where hundreds and thousands of bones had been found.
To enter the Tomb might be thought of as folly
but some went on hands and knees, some off their trolley.

From Ronaldsay South then to Ronaldsay North
along with the eagles we also flew forth
in a box with two engines, eight seats and a stick -
not quite like an eagle, but pretty damn quick.

We climbed up the lighthouse to look at the light
and took in the compass from quite a great height
while down at the foghorn they gave it a blast
to warn all the ships lunch was ready at last.

While half took the highway we took turn around
and boarded the ferry on Eynhallow Sound
across to the Island of Rousay, and thus
embarked on a tour with the Irishman's bus.
He spun us a tale of each stone, from the quay
to the "Gods of the Earth" and the "Gods of the Sea" -
the modern day sculpture on northerly brow
foretelling the wonders to come at Mid Howe.

The "Great ship of Death" as the cairn has been called
is protectively housed and most lovingly halled.
With the Broch of Mid Howe on the shore line nearby
you can flavour how ancient man lived and might die.

While Rousay was sunny the mists were at sea
and sadly North Ronaldsay was not to be
for half of the party who could not take flights
and were grounded to sample more earthly delights.

On the 97th birthday – exact to the day –
we went to the monument over the bay
where Kitchener died at the height of The War
when the Hampshire was mined within sight of the shore.
The rest of the programme had no printed words
so we all hugged a stone, or went chasing the birds
or found a museum, a Bu or a church,
or forgot what we went for and gave up the search!

The Broch of Gurness was the final place where
some studied the runes, while we took to the air
for the shortest of hops on our longest of days
from Papa to Momma among the Westrays.

So Mary; so Morag; and so Moisie D.,
the times were as good as a good time should be;
and now we're engaged to each 3M'sy queen
for Achiltibuie in twenty-fourteen.



BIRD LIST (ORKNEY JUNE 2013)

MORAG REA & VALERIE BARKER

Bonxie	Blackbird
Storm Petrel	Rock Pipit
Fulmar	Meadow Pipit
Great Black-backed Gull	Swallow
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Hoodie Crow
Black-headed Gull	Rook
Herring Gull	Woodpigeon
Common Gull	Rock Dove
Gannet	House Martin
Black Guillemot	Collared Dove
Guillemot	Greenfinch
Razorbill	Wheatear
Kittiwake	Wren
Mute Swan	Stonechat
Arctic Tern	Greylag Goose
Little Tern	Buzzard
Ringed Plover	Raven
Shag	Short-eared Owl
Merganser	Kestrel
Goosander	Hen Harrier

Red-throated Diver
Eider
Mallard
Gadwall
Tufted Duck
Wigeon
Shelduck
Coot
Heron
Curlew
Redshank
Common Sandpiper
Whooper Swan
Skylark
Pied Wagtail
House Sparrow
Starling
Corncrake

Duncock
Song Thrush
Twite
Water Rail (H)
Pochard
Black Scoter
Moorhen
Little Grebe
Snipe
Lapwing
Oystercatcher
Linnet
Sedge Warbler
Reed Bunting
White Wagtail
Puffin





OBITUARY

SHEENA CARMICHAEL - 1929 - 2013

Our dear friend and loyal, long-serving member of NHASMA suddenly departed this world on the 5 April following a very short illness. Although never a Committee member she was, probably, the longest serving member of the Society and was still attending meetings including last Winter's series of evening meetings, together with her friend Jesse Gordon. Sheena was just one month short of her 93rd birthday when she was taken following a very short stay in hospital.

We have particularly fond memories of trips out with Sheena and another friend, Anne Kahane, during the time when we were only temporary residents in Ford and just came up on holidays which were, thankfully, rather frequent! They were instrumental in introducing us to some of the unique historical features of Kilmartin Glen. Anne was particularly keen on lime kilns and the four of us "discovered" a considerable number together and enjoyed some wonderful days out which always included picnics or a meal out!

Frequent, non-historical, day trips out with Sheena all over the area made us realise just how well-known, liked and respected was Sheena by the fact that we couldn't go anywhere without bumping into a friend or someone she knew or who knew her. Even at the folk museum on Arran it turned out that the lady on the reception desk had worked at Ford Hotel at the same time Sheena was helping out with afternoon teas and the like. And that was a good long while ago!

Her knowledge of local people, places and history was prodigious, such that, visitors to the area doing research into family history and the like were pointed towards Sheena. She made many friends from around the UK and overseas with whom she corresponded and who always visited her when in the area.

Despite the tragedies and traumas with which she had been faced she was always cheerful and composed. The loss of her husband, Alasdair, when he was only 61 and she 54 followed by the loss of her son, John, some 15 years later at the age of 30 would try anyone to the extreme but Sheena did not appear to let such tragic events get on top of her.

Her training as a nurse in Glasgow was curtailed by a bout of tuberculosis which robbed her of the use of one lung. This must have been a trauma at the time but never seemed to adversely affect her. She could very easily out walk me (20 years younger) during our day trips of historical discovery! One of her favourite weekly get togethers was to play Scrabble. It was only a very brave and foolhardy person who would take Sheena on at this testing board game! Her knowledge was prodigious particularly of the obscure two letter words which enabled the very experienced player to gather points against any opposition!

Sheena, you will be sorely missed.

OBITUARY

IAN MACDONALD - 1919 - 2013

Ian was a member of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll. He gave lectures to the Society and contributed articles and letters to Kist including one on the old names of the coastal areas of South Knapdale and another on the township of Auchindrain, showing the scope of his knowledge across Argyll.

Speaking personally as Kist editor, I greatly looked forward to his contributions, which were always written in his neat and legible hand. He was free and open with his knowledge of the land and its people; a true tradition bearer who wanted to connect people to each other and to past and present landscapes. When I moved from Tarbert to North Beachmore, near Muasdale, Kintyre, he wrote me a letter explaining that his grandfather was the tenant of North Beachmore farm and that he himself was born on the neighbouring farm to the north: Beachmeanach.

Ian was born on the 16th May 1919 to Malcolm MacDonald and his wife Catherine McLachlan, who were tenants of Beachmeanach. He was the eldest of six children and was brought up speaking Gaelic and English. He attended Cleit School and Campbeltown Grammar, leaving at 14 to help his father on the farm.

In 1939, aged 20, he was called up to join the 56th (Army) Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps but was released shortly after to return and plough farms in Kintyre under a government scheme. He then continued on to Catterick to receive training on tanks including the new Churchill Tank. After attending an Army Selection Board, he graduated as 2nd Lieutenant from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in 1943. He was chosen by Col. Herbert Waddell for the 7th Buffs, renamed the 141 R.A.C. (The Buffs). In March 1944 this regiment was selected to be the first flame throwing regiment. In July, Ian was promoted to Captain and transferred to be Chief Instructor to the AFHQ in Caserta, Italy, sailing there on the 'Cape Wrath' with tanks and flame throwers, from Liverpool. The only soldier on the ship, he saw his home, Beachmeanach Farm, as they sailed north to join a convoy off Oban. When the war ended, Ian was transferred to R.A.C.T.D. in Cairo and was demobbed in June 1946 having turned down the offer of promotion. He was mentioned in Despatches for distinguished service.

On leaving the army, he enrolled at the West of Scotland Agricultural College at Auchincruive to study agriculture and dairying. He returned home to work at Beachmeanach Farm and in 1952 he married Ina Park at Bellochantuy Church and took on the tenancy of the small farm of Portachoillan in Clachan. Simultaneously, he went to work with Lever Brothers and BOCM and was latterly employed by Kintyre Farmers Limited as a

Technical Advisor and Representative. Ian loved being out on the West Loch setting creels for lobster and he won many trophies for clay pigeon tournaments.

Ian had a great interest in people and their family history especially those from the parishes of Killean and Kilkenzie and Kilcalmonell. His maternal grandfather, John McLachlan, lived at East Killarow where he was a herdsman for MacAlister Hall of Tangy. In the early 1900's, many Lairds owned a herd of highland cattle as it was thought to be prestigious and Ian recalled one of his grandfather's stories. When MacAlister Hall, in front of his visitors, called in English for the cattle to move they ignored him and did not move forward until his grandfather shouted 'Thig a seo'. John McLachlan later took tenancy of North Beachmore and also South and Mid Crubastil. Ian's paternal grandparents were tenants at South Beachmore and then at Drumnamuchlach and he had family at Charlottan and Culfuair Farms.

Through listening to the family stories and working along with them at the shepherding and farming, Ian learned much about the history of the area, the families that lived there and the wildlife and Ian did not hesitate to pass this knowledge on to others who showed an interest. Also through his job of travelling around the Kintyre countryside he met many farmers and would enjoy chatting with them.

His knowledge of family history and of the old farms, now long gone, soon became apparent and people from all over the world would write to him with their queries and would travel to Kintyre to visit with him. Others, on remarking that they were in Kintyre to visit their homeland would soon be directed to Ian's door, where Ian and Ina always made them welcome. He was delighted to be able to unite four cousins who had not known of each other with a common McCorkindale ancestor. Ian had several visitors' books with a total of over 300 names in them. However, these did not include those he had helped but had not visited in person and so the number he had helped was numerous.

Ian wrote a number of articles for the Kintyre Antiquarian and Natural History Society magazine including 'Largieside and its People', 'The Blues of North Kintyre', 'The Twa Brigs' and 'The Largieside Distillers' with some of these articles being republished in other magazines. He gave several lectures to the Society during the winter meetings.

Ian became President of the Kintyre Antiquarian and Natural History Society (KANHS) in 1995, a post he held for 3 years and in the year 2000 he became the Honorary President of the Society. In 1986, he was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

He retired from Kintyre Farmers in 1982 and at the same time he stopped farming and moved into Shenakill in Clachan Village. One of the highlights of his life, during his retirement was when he was invited along with Ina, in 1992 to North Carolina as the guest of Lt. Col. Victor Clark USAF, Retd, FSA Scot., Dr Don McNeill and others. Victor Clark was an Honorary Vice President of the Society who published the Argyll Colony Plus magazine and was immensely interested in the Kintyre Scots of North Carolina. Ian was asked to give a lecture and was very honoured to open the Flora Macdonald Highland Games in Red Springs during his visit.

Other highlights included receiving a card from the Queen to mark their Diamond Wedding anniversary last year and being awarded the Kintyre Citizen of the Year in 1999.

Ian was a man of faith and served as an elder in Kilcalmonell Church in Clachan, representing the congregation at Presbytery and Synod level. He served on the Kintyre District Council and also on the Argyll County Council before it became Strathclyde Regional Council in 1975.

To give an idea of the profound influence he had on people, I include below the recollection of KANHS member Elizabeth Marrison:

"On a very warm Sunday in June 1978 as a new member of the Society, I joined the others on a field trip to

Ballochroy Glen. We were met there by Ian MacDonald who started the day by relating to us the story of the ship that anchored at the mouth of the glen in 1851 and of the 24 families who abandoned their way of life in the glen and sailed off to Canada. The glen was emptied. He guided us around the ruins of Ballochroy showing us the old mill, smithy and houses, and then led us to the ruins of Kilmichael Farm and then up to an old grave stone of the tobacconist from Inveraray who had drowned nearby in 1756. The day continued with visits to the site of the old school, and further ruined farms and all the time Ian was telling us about the families who once lived there, the McQuistans, McKinlays, McKellars, McQuilkans, Bells and many others explaining how they farmed and how they had survived. He was in correspondence with their descendants now living in Australia, Canada and America. Ian was a walking history book. He made everything so interesting that day and I became hooked with what has become a continuing interest in farm history and those who farmed them."

Ian died at his home in Lochgilphead, where he had lived for the past ten years on the 3rd February 2013, in his 94th year. Up to the end he had a great memory and continued to help others with their genealogy. He will be sadly missed. He is survived by his widow, Ina and their 3 children, Malcolm, John and Anne and 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

THE KIST ISSN 0307-529

The magazine of the Natural History and
Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll

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The Society's year runs from 1st September until 31st August.
Charity No. SC000894

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